

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MORALES BERMUDEZ TO CHILE: RELATIONS CORDIAL BUT PERU

ARMS FOR DEFENSE

1. IN AN AUGUST 28 ADDRESS IN TACNA AT A CERMONY COMMEMORATING THE RETURN OF TACNA TO PERU, MORALES BERMUDEZ ADDRESSED "A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS TO THE SOUTH". HE DECLARED THAT "WHEN PERU BUILDS (MILITARILY) AS WE ARE DOING, WHEN WE DEVELOP THERE IS NO REVANCHIST SPITIT BECAUSE PERU IS NOBLE AND SINCERE". MORALES BERMUDEZ THEN STATED THAT THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES WERE NOT DEVELOPING FOR AGGRESSION BUT BECAUSE "THE WOUNDS THE COUNTRY SUFFERED IN THE PAST WILL NOT AGAIN BE PERMITTED".

2. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM TACNA, PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ VISITED THE CHILEAN BARKANTINE TRAINING SHIP "ESMERALDA", THEN IN PORT HERE, AND SPOKE BY RADIO TELEPHONE TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET OF CHILE. IN THAT CONVERSATION MORALES BERMUDEZ STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS AND SAID THATAT THEY SHOULD MAINTAIN SUCH CONTACT AS A SIGN OF THE ONGOING "FRIENDSHIP OF OUR PEOPLES". THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE "EL PERUANO" REPORTED PINOCHET AS HOPING FOR A PERSONAL MEETING WITH MORALES BERMUDEZ. LIMA PRESS, AUGUST 31, HEADLINED THE CONVERSATION AND EMPHASIZED ITS CORDIAL NATURE.

3. COMMENT: MORALES BERMUDEZ' VISIT TO THE "ESMERALDA" AND

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THE RADIO-TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH PINOCHET PERHAPS WAS

INTENDED TO BALANCE A POSSIBLE NEGATIVE IMPACT IN CHILE OF THE AUGUST 28 TACNA CEREMONIES WITH THEIR FULL ARRAY OF PATRIOTIC WORDS AND SYMBOLS AND AT WHICH MORALES BERMUDEZ ACKNOWLEDGED PERUVIAN MILITARY "DEVELOPMENT" AND FORCEFULLY STATED THAT PERU WOULD NEVER AGAIN SUFFER MILITARY HUMILIATION. THE MORALES BERMUDEZ/PINOCHE CONVERSATION WAS THE FIRST DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN PERUVIAN AND CHILEAN PRESIDENTS IN SOME YEARS. WIDE-SPREAD PUBLICITY HERE SEEMS INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE NOT ONLY CORDIAL BUT IMPROVING. SMITH

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